

IN THE CLAIMS

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Please amend claims 1 to read as follows:

Ε' 1. (Amended) An improved composition for physiological applications, said composition containing hydroxypropylmethylcellulose in a physiological salt solution, the improvement comprising a hydroxypropylmethylcellulose solution free of harmful particulate matter and gels greater than 0.5 μm in diameter, said viscoelastic solution having a zero shear viscosity in excess of 15,000 cps, an average molecular weight in excess of 250,000 Daltons and being pyrogen free and non-toxic when a therapeutically effective amount of said solution is injected into a human body. misspell

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Please amend claim 13 to read as follows:

Ε' 13. (Thrice amended) A process for preparing a viscoelastic solution of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose in a physiological salt solution, the composition having a zero shear viscosity in excess of 15,000 cps and being free of harmful particulate material and gels greater than 0.5 μm in diameter and being pyrogen free and non-toxic when a therapeutically effective amount of said solution is injected into a human eye, the process comprising the steps of:

- a) dispersing the hydroxypropylmethylcellulose in the salt solution to form a suspension,
- b) heating the suspension of step (a) to about 95°C., allowing any undissolved material to settle and discarding the supernatant liquid above the undissolved material,
- c) resuspending the undissolved material to form a second suspension of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose and heating the second suspension to form a thick gel,

- d) filtering the gel through a series of filters to form a clean solution,
- e) autoclaving the clean solution,
- f) cooling the autoclaved clean solution and filtering the cooled solution, and
- g) degassing the filtered cooled solution.

missing deleted text

Please amend claim 25 to read as follows:

25. (Amended) A viscoelastic composition for injection into a human eye, the viscoelastic composition comprising hydroxypropylmethylcellulose in a physiological salt solution,

the hydroxypropylmethylcellulose having an average molecular weight greater than about 375,000 but less than about 420,000 and being present in a concentration from about 2.0% to about 2.5%,

the composition having a viscosity from about 25,000 centipoise to about 40,000 centipoise being free of harmful particulate matter and gels greater than 0.5 μm in diameter and being pyrogen free and nontoxic.

Please amend claim 27 to read as follows:

27. (Twice Amended) A process of preparing a sterile solution of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose in an aqueous solution, the sterile solution having a zero shear viscosity in excess of 15,000 cps and being non-toxic, non-pyrogenic, and substantially free of particulate matter and gels greater than 0.5 μm in diameter and harmful to the human eye, the process comprising the steps of:

- a) dispersing hydropropylmethylcellulose in a first part of the aqueous solution to form a suspension;